

# Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD)



To learn more, or to sign up, visit  
[www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead](http://www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead).

## What Is BARD?

The Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) is a web-based service that provides access to thousands of special-format books, magazines, and music scores available from NLS. The service is available to registered users of the braille and talking book program through their network library. Books may be downloaded for reading on iOS and Android devices through the BARD Mobile app, though braille readers will need to connect to a refreshable braille display via an iOS device with a Bluetooth connection. The BARD website and mobile app are password-protected, and all files are in an electronically downloadable form of compressed audio or formatted braille.

## What Is the Braille and Talking Book Program?

The braille and talking book program is a free library service administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress. The program is offered through a nationwide network of cooperating libraries that lend reading materials to residents of the United States and its territories and U.S. citizens living abroad who are unable to read or use regular print materials because of a visual or physical disability.

*“Being able to download titles and manage my reading list independently has made an outstanding service so much better. The BARD Mobile app for the iPhone has also been so wonderful, since it makes it so easy to take books with you anywhere. I truly cannot imagine my life without the NLS program.”*

— Peggy, NLS patron since 1962

*(continued)*

Apply for the service today!  
Call 1-888-NLS-READ (1-888-657-7323)  
or visit [www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead](http://www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead).

  
National Library Service  
for the blind and physically handicapped  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

## What Is Available on BARD?

Patrons may access most of the books and magazines in the NLS collection, which have been selected on the basis of their appeal across a wide range of interests. Thousands of audio and braille fiction and nonfiction titles are available, including some in languages other than English. Issues of more than 90 magazine titles are also available. NLS adds new titles regularly, including a growing number of locally produced materials and NLS-acquired music scores and music appreciation books.

- **E-braille.** Electronic braille (or e-braille) materials are available in contracted and uncontracted formats and may be downloaded by individual volume or in a ZIP file containing all volumes of the book (or parts of the magazine). E-braille materials may be embossed or read with a refreshable braille display. Users must have a braille display, braille-aware device, or braille embosser to read e-braille files.
- **Digital talking books.** Digital talking books are available in protected compressed audio file formats and may be downloaded as a ZIP file. Once a reader selects, downloads, and saves the file, it may be decompressed and transferred to a USB flash drive or cartridge to play on a library-provided digital talking-book machine or an approved third-party digital player. Users must be able to access the Internet and be authorized to use the service by their local cooperating library. Basic computer and Internet skills, including familiarity with online forms and downloading and unzipping files, also are helpful.

## How Do I Access BARD?

You may sign up for BARD by contacting your local braille and talking book library. Call 1-888-NLS-READ (1-888-675-7323) or visit [www.loc.gov/nls/find.html](http://www.loc.gov/nls/find.html) to find your local cooperating library.

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or visit [www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead](http://www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead).